REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, each of claims 1-8 are amended to further clarify the subject matter therein. No new matter is added by this Amendment.

I.   Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 8 are objected to because the language "and authentication means for authenticating against said stored identification data identification data determined" is confusing. Claim 2 is objected to for not ending in a period.

Applicant herein amends claim 2 to include a period and removes the above quoted language from the claims. Thus, these objections are overcome.

II.   Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,695,207 (Norris). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to the presently claimed invention, it is determined at intervals whether an identification data transmitted from an operating device matches identification data stored in a first memory, and a latest determination result is stored in a second memory for every determination. A determination result stored in the second memory is referred to when an input by an operating device is detected, and if the stored determination result is affirmative, namely when a received identification data matches the identification data stored in the first memory, processing corresponding to the detected input is performed.

In contrast, Norris does not teach or suggest storing a determination result in a memory and referring to a stored determination result when an input by an operating device is detected. Instead, Norris discloses a system for preventing unauthorized use which comprises personalized authenticated controller (PAC) 10 and instrumentality 20. See Fig. 2 of Norris. In the system of Norris, the first user authentication is performed by PAC 10 on the basis of

fingerprint data of a user. If the user is authenticated, an authorized person identification authentication signal is transmitted from PAC 10 to instrumentality 20 along with user commands. When the signal is received by instrumentality 20, the second user authentication is performed by instrumentality 20 on the basis of the received signal. If the user is authenticated, actions corresponding to the user commands are carried out by instrumentality 20. In summary, in the system of Norris, a user authentication is performed by both PAC 10 and instrumentality 20.

Accordingly, Norris fails to disclose that the operation detection means detects an input from an operating device, refers to a determination result stored in the second memory, and if the determination result is affirmative, performs data processing corresponding to the input detected by the operation detection means, as recited in claim 1. Nor does Norris disclose detecting an input by an operating device and referring to a determination result stored in the second memory in response to the input detection, as recited in claims 3, 5 and 7.

Furthermore, Norris discloses that PAC 10 continually performs a user authentication, and that PAC 10 transmits identification data to instrumentality 20 only when a user is authenticated (see col. 8, line 54-col. 9, line 18 of Norris). However, Norris does not disclose storing an authentication result in a memory, and referring to a stored authentication result when an input by an operating device is detected, as recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in claims 3, 5 and 7.

Still further, Norris discloses that instrumentality 20 performs a user authentication on receipt of user commands, and the authentication is performed on the basis of identification data received from PAC 10 at about the same time as the user commands (see col. 4, line 58-col. 5, line 15 of Norris). Accordingly, the instrumentality 20 does not store authentication results in a memory, and the instrumentality 20 does not refer to an authentication result

stored in itself when an input by an operating device is detected, as recited in claim 1, and similarly recited in claims 3, 5 and 7.
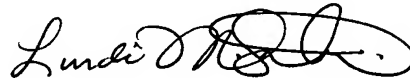
For at least the foregoing reasons, Norris fails to anticipate the subject matter of claims 1, 3, 5 and 7, as well as the claims depending therefrom. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Linda M. Saltiel
Registration No. 51,122

JAO:LMS/tje

Date: September 29, 2005

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE
AUTHORIZATION
Please grant any extension
necessary for entry;
Charge any fee due to our
Deposit Account No. 15-0461